

Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the right of reclaiming fugitives from labor having been recognized by the several States prior to the adoption of the Federal Constitution, and being guaranteed by that instrument, cannot be abridged, restrained or embarrassed by the Legislature of any State in the Union.

Resolved, That a citizen of Maryland exercising the right of arresting and removing his fugitive slave in another State, is not amenable to the penalties of any law of that State, prohibiting or restraining his constitutional right, or liable to be demanded as a fugitive from justice for asserting that right in contravention of such law.

Resolved, That in order to maintain inviolably that equality of privileges and immunities to which the citizens of the Union are entitled under the Constitution of the United States, the national judiciary ought to preside in all cases in which one State or its citizens are opposed to another State or its citizens.

Resolved, That to secure the full effect of it's fundamental provisions against all evasion or subterfuge, it is necessary that the construction of the Constitution of the United States, or of *questions growing out of the collision of State laws with the Federal Constitution or laws made in pursuance thereof* should be committed to that tribunal which, having no local attachments, will be likely to be impartial between the different States and their citizens, and which, owing its official existence to the Union, will never be likely to feel any bias inauspicious to the principles upon which it is founded.

Resolved, That the Constitution of the United States, having invested no tribunal with original jurisdiction in such questions as are at issues between the States of Maryland and Pennsylvania, in relation to the surrender of Nathan S. Bemis and others, an impartial decision cannot be had in the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, viz: a surrender of the persons demanded, a trial by a court of Pennsylvania and an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States, without withdrawing the protection due to every citizen, as the question would thereby be conceded and citizens might be punished before their guilt or innocence could be established by the court of ultimate resort.

Resolved, That His Excellency, the Governor, has exhibited a most commendable solicitude to render to the citizens of this State, demanded by the State of Pennsylvania, all the protection to which they were entitled, consistent with his obligations to maintain the constitution and laws of the United States, as expounded by the Attorney General of this State.

Which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Roberts, chairman of the select committee, delivered the following

REPORT:

The select committee, to whom was referred the petitions and counter petition of a number of citizens of Queen Ann's county, upon the subject of opening a communication by means of a drawbridge